

REMARKS

A Final Office Action mailed May 27, 2004 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1-50 are pending in the application. Claims 1-50 are rejected.

In paragraph three on page three of the Office Action, Claims 1-5, 16-20, 31-35, and 46-49 were rejected under § 102(e) over Yacoub (U.S. Patent No. 6,552,813).

In paragraph five on page four of the Office Action, Claims 6-12, 21-27, 36-42, and 50 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yacoub as described in claim 16 above, and in view of Nagata (JP 411110163).

In paragraph six on page six of the Office Action, Claims 13-15, 28-30, and 43-45 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yacoub and Nagata described in Claims 21-22 and 27 above, and in view of Olsen et al. (U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0016921).

Applicants respectfully traverse the §§ 102(e) and 103(a) rejections. Applicants respectfully assert that the requirements for either a § 102(e) or a §103(a) rejection are not present and a prima facie rejection fails because the Office Action fails to cite a reference or references that teach, disclose or suggest all the claim limitations of Applicants' application.

Applicants' application requires determining job description attributes of an incoming print job, determining attributes of a print channel associated with the incoming print job and processing the incoming print job based upon the attributes of the print channel and the job description attributes of the incoming print job.

Yacoub, unlike the instant application, focuses on a server or virtual printer that "receives preferences *from a user* regarding the print job such as image quality and/or speed," column 2, lines 10-13 (emphasis added). Note: preferences are also received by the virtual printer from a user at column 4, lines 53-67, cited by the Office Action. Yacoub further states at column 11, lines 30-34, "When the user of client station 600 activates the print command from software 635, the operating system 630 and/or the software 635 will generate the user interface 640 so that the user can select the preferences of the print job such as quality and speed. The user interface 640 returns preferences to virtual printer 610 once the user has selected them." Returning a user's preferences to the virtual printer 610 from the user interface 640 is not via a print channel as can be seen at Fig. 5. Therefore, Yacoub does not disclose, teach or suggest receiving job description attributes of the incoming print job *from the print channel*.

The Office Action asserts Yacoub at column 6, lines 45-67 anticipates Applicants' application. However, Applicant s respectfully submit that the assertion is erroneous because at column 6, lines 50-53, Yacoub refers to Fig. 3 and specifically states, "a graphical user interface (GUI) menu will pop up on the user's display screen as a dialog so that the *user can select the parameters* of his print job" (emphasis added). Turning to Fig. 3, Yacoub shows step 330, a print job is spooled to the server. The print job contains user/client selections from a menu, 315. Spooling the print job to the server 330 is not performed via a print channel because at step 350 "the job is spooled to the appropriate printer," a step in a sequence that follows spooling the job to the server. The server thus does not receive information from the printer, it spools information to the printer. Again, Yacoub does not disclose, teach or suggest a receiving job description attributes of the incoming print job *from the print channel* (emphasis added).

Furthermore, Yacoub fails to suggest determining attributes of a print channel associated with the incoming print job. Applicants invention requires that a print channel is associated with a print job. Thus, it is the attributes of the particular print channel that is associated with the print job that is determined. However, according to Yacoub, a print job is not associated with a particular print channel. Rather, the virtual interface determines an appropriate printer (see column 4, lines 54-55). This is clearly different than determining attributes of a print channel associated with the incoming print job where a print channel is associated with the print job.

Still further, Yacoub cannot suggest processing the incoming print job based upon the attributes of the print channel and the job description attributes of the incoming print job because Yacoub fails to suggest determining job description attributes of an incoming print job and determining attributes of a print channel associated with the incoming print job as described above.

Thus Yacoub fails to suggest any of the elements recited in the independent claims.

Nagata fails to remedy the deficiencies of Yacoub. Nagata focuses on a print processor having "a spool-processing means to hold the printed output data sent through a network from the host terminal." Nagata emphasizes aspects of output data and discusses data sent through a network only to the extent that data must be sent through a path to spool processing means. Nagata does not discuss print channel attributes. Therefore, Nagata, alone or in combination with Yacoub, fails to disclose, teach or suggest determining job description attributes of an

incoming print job, determining attributes of a print channel associated with the incoming print job and processing the incoming print job based upon the attributes of the print channel and the job description attributes of the incoming print job.

Olsen too fails to remedy the deficiencies of both Yacoub and Nagata. Olsen focuses on a "system and method for ensuring secure transfer of a document from a client of a network to a printer." Olsen fails to discuss print channel attributes. Olsen merely discusses attributes in the context of a "SetJobinfo" command, paragraph 0422, related to message information, and in the context of a "user attribute," paragraphs 0469-0470, where "[o]n the server each user shall have an attribute describing the login procedure for submitting print jobs. User login attribute: Network, card, password." Because both of the "SetJobinfo" command and the "user attribute" are not related to print channel attributes from the instant application, Olsen, alone or in combination with Yacoub and Nagata, fails to disclose, teach or suggest determining job description attributes of an incoming print job, determining attributes of a print channel associated with the incoming print job and processing the incoming print job based upon the attributes of the print channel and the job description attributes of the incoming print job.

Because Yacoub, Nagata and Olsen, alone or in combination, fail to teach, disclose or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims in the instant application, the rejections are improper. Accordingly, applicants request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2-15, 17-30, 32-45 and 47-50 are also patentable over the references, because they incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claims 1, 16, 31 and 46. Further dependent claims 2-15, 17-30, 32-45 and 47-50 recite additional novel elements and limitations. Applicants reserve the right to argue independently the patentability of these additional novel aspects. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-15, 17-30, 32-45 and 47-50 are patentable over the cited references.

On the basis of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

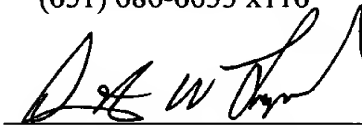
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If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicants, David W. Lynch, at 651-686-6633 Ext. 116.

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